

The call began at 6:31 p.m. 13 participants

Pam Urban-Morin, Department of Safety, Grants Management Unit, hosted the call. Perry Plummer, Director of HSEM was also on the call assisting. Thank you, Fallon Reed, HSEM, who assisted as moderator of the call.

Pam explained that there were no significant changes to the application process this year. The format of the call was for a broad overview of the grant process to be explained and then questions could be answered at the end of the call. She also explained that on the Dept of Safety website there is a Grants section and under the 2016-2017 Homeland Grant section the application, reference materials and notes from the calls will also be available. Please note that the application is now one document, Susan Glover of GMU revised it for easier use this year.

Pam explained that on the DOS website under the 2016-2017 Homeland Grant section you can find the award amount, funding breakdown, application and supporting documents. You can always call our office at 603-271-7663 if you have any questions or can contact your Field Rep with HSEM. The award amount has remained consistent the last few years, this year will be \$4,734,500. 80% will be awarded to the locals, the allocation breakdown is located online. Approximately \$1 million will be put towards non law enforcement activities and \$565,000 will be put towards law enforcement activities. Keep in mind that money can be moved towards LE activities from Non-LE activity funds but can not be moved the other way around.

The one change this year is that we are processing 2 years worth of applications/awards in one grant cycle. Dept of Homeland Security (federal office) will be approving on a project basis this year instead of a general investment level as in the past. Previously we were awarded the funds and then were able to award specific projects, this year the project applications have to be submitted prior to us receiving the award notification. Due to two grant processes being done in one award cycle, the chances of being awarded will almost double. In the past it has generally been a 1 in 5 chance of being awarded. Keep in mind that the 2017 grant projects can not be started and funding is not available for atleast another year. This could be beneficial with some projects that need more time before implementation can happen.

Perry Plummer stated that there are field representatives assigned to every community. If you do not know who yours is or can not reach them you can always contact me at 419-0255 (cell). They are here to help with the application process, they are not decision makers on who gets awards. They can provide guidance and help coordinate resources. Speak with your field representative to determine which grant program is best for your specific project as EMPG has

grant funds available and eligibility can be checked in advance before lengthy applications are completed. The scoring sheet is available online, the scoring process is much like an open test, all sections should be completed on the application or you could lose points overall. Review the scoring sheet to make sure you meet all requirements. Large projects can be done in phases over 2-3 years if possible and/or if needed. Keep in mind that the grant period for these two grants is 36 months and there are no extensions given by the federal DHS office. This needs to be kept in mind for planning needs such as permits, approvals, EHP, etc.

Pam stated to put together guidelines based on the size of the project to make sure it can be completed within the time frame. The EHP NEPA info is on the website, however we do not recommend doing any of this at this time, we recommend waiting until an award has been made as it may or may not apply to your project. Field Reps can also help with the EHP process.

Important to review the documents online, priorities have been identified including sustainability projects that include maintenance or ongoing projects based on previous Homeland grant purchases. Make sure to review the approved equipment listing online, there have been a few changes. There is a bulletin online also that lists restricted items, some are eligible but may have extra requirements and reporting elements. We can get you more information in advance if needed so you can take this into consideration before applying for a certain project.

Supplanting is not allowed so make sure you have not already budgeted for these projects to be done with local funds. A few of the previous grants were 24 month grants, these two will be 36 months which should help with completing projects on time. Phasing in projects in functional sections (over multiple years) is seen as a favorable option in order to help spread out the funding.

There are some set aside funding programs with funds set aside specifically for HazMat teams, EMS Warmzone equipment, LE Active Shooter and other trainings. Make sure not to include these items in your award as funding will be available at a later time for these types of items.

Timeline is as follows: Applications are due August 5th by noon via email to the GMU office. An email confirmation will be sent back to you within 24 business hours confirming receipt of your application. Grant Committee will review applications and meet again in mid September to determine recommended awards. 2017 funding is unknown at this time, however an estimate similar to the 2016 award amount will be used.

The application does have a question that asks if you can do the project in either year or only prefer funding in one year. Please specify if needed. The 2016 funds should be available in October/November of this year. 2017 funds won't be available until October/November of 2017.

Question #1 Chief Dan McDonald, New Boston

-specifically looking for funds for the police department and I understand that projects focusing on anti-terrorism are required? We completed a table top but would like to move forward with more complex scenarios, exercises.

Pam, there is law enforcement set aside funds that might cover exercise needs that won't require such a lengthy application, discuss your specific needs with us and we can help you determine the best way to accomplish your goals.

Perry recommended speaking to the field representative for the town to ensure the most appropriate funding is used.

Pam thanked everyone for taking the time to call in and participate in the call. The minutes of this call will be posted on the website as well as the call that was done yesterday. We are always available to help, please feel free to call our office or reach out to your field representative for anything you may need.